



Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilot

Tulsa, OK

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

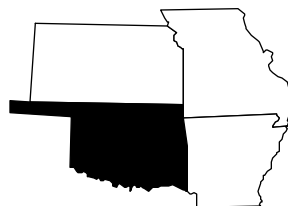
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

OVERVIEW

EPA Region 6 has selected the City of Tulsa as a Regional Brownfields Pilot. Located in the northeastern quadrant of Oklahoma, Tulsa is the 43rd largest city in the country and is continuing to grow. The economic boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s contributed to rapid expansion in outlying greenfields, and pulled businesses and residents from the city core and leaving large tracts of land that may be environmentally affected in older sections of the city. Numerous redevelopment efforts adjacent to the core area have been delayed due to potential environmental risks. The city faces a shortage of greenfields within the city limits and future industrial development must focus on brownfields for future economic growth.

In March, 1996, EPA Region 6 provided the Tulsa Industrial Authority (TIA) with a list of 85 archived CERCLIS sites in Tulsa County. After researching the status of the sites, TIA is focusing on 46 potential brownfields located primarily in the northwest neighborhoods of the City of Tulsa. The sites were used for a wide variety of commercial and industrial activities, including electroplating, transformer repair, and electrical equipment and chemical manufacturing. Tulsa plans to assess, develop cleanup plans, and spur private redevelopment at 10 of these properties.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Tulsa, Oklahoma

Date of Award:
April 1997

Amount: \$200,000

Site Profile: The pilot will focus on 10 potential brownfields removed from the CERCLIS list and located primarily in northwest neighborhoods of the city.

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Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

OBJECTIVES

Tulsa's goal is to restore abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial sites to productive use and create jobs through a brownfields redevelopment plan. The pilot is designed to empower the community and other redevelopment stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely cleanup, and sustainably reuse brownfields.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

- Conducting environmental assessments at 10 brownfields that are either tax delinquent or already owned by the city;
- Selecting sites for redevelopment based on the best combination of environmental factors and redevelopment potential;
- Clarifying liability issues by development of a model redevelopment process that uses provisions of the new Oklahoma Brownfields Voluntary Redevelopment Act;
- Exploring methods of financing cleanups through state voluntary cleanup programs, state tax incentive programs, contributions from responsible parties, and prospective purchaser agreements; and
- Generating effective public involvement in the redevelopment planning process.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.